

Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board Minutes September 21, 2017

Members Present: Roger Witherbee, Vernie Nethercut, Elizabeth Littler, Tom Orth, Adam Poll, Susie Austin, Christian Stevens, Karen Enterline, Boris Gerber, Judy Kalmanek,

Members Absent: Terry Gougeon

Resource Members: Katherine Stedman

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Roger Witherbee

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 17, 2017

A motion was made by Elizabeth, seconded by Vernie that the minutes of 8-17-2017 be approved. Motion carried.

3. UPDATES FROM ADAM

Trail cameras: two trail cameras have been installed on Island Park to track vandals.

Board vacancy: both positions have been filled and approved by City Council. Karen Enterline and Boris Gerber were welcomed to the board by Chair Roger Witherbee.

4. No Wake Sign Cost

Adam reported that the cost for each no wake sign is \$21.50. Installation, including posts where needed, will be about \$100. The total cost for 6 signs will be no greater than \$730.30. The signs will be erected at all the launches along the river that are within the city. A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Tom that Adam be authorized to spend up to \$730.30 for the no wake signs and have them erected. The motion carried.

Adam will talk with Rich Sullenger to schedule a time for the installation and when to do the publicity. This notice will come out from the city.

A question was raised about enforcement and fines for violators. Roger has already talked with the sheriff's department and they promise enforcement. To do so, however, they will need as much information as possible from the reporter including the boat number and a description of the boat.

5. Frogbit pull results

On Friday, September 15th about 100 5th graders from Hinks and Besser Schools helped pull frogbit from the sanctuary. The event was sponsored by NEMIGLSI and Huron Pines. The students pulled a little over 1,000 pounds of frogbit from the area on either side of the kayak launch. Prior to that many of the invasive narrow leaf cattails had been cut. The work was done by members of the AWSB who were assisted by a group of HS students led by Christian. The HS students gathered the cut cattails and piled them on the banks ready for pick up.

6. Canoe/kayak storage

The bid from Meridian Construction to build an in ground kayak storage unit in the hillside near the kayak launch came back at \$36,827. Suggestions were made about possible funding sources for the project. Roger is trying to contact the Youth and Recreation Board to see if a grant of this type meets their funding guidelines.

7. Brainstorming names for the River Center Board

Vernie suggested that we all work to suggest names of people who can help with the River Center project. Judy distributed a sheet outlining the needs for both board members and committee members. The outline was accompanied by an application form for folks who are interested. The completed form should be sent to Roger, or he can be contacted by email or phone.

8. Round Table

Elizabeth showed some of the materials and a diagram to support the need for riparian set back borders. The educational information is designed primarily for river front property owners. The materials are not yet completed and she plans to meet again with Terry Gougeon and Ron Young who make up the committee.

Adam noted that the base for the new blue heron sculpture at Duck Park is in place. He did not know when it would be installed.

It was requested that the official website address of the River Center be added to the minutes: www.thunderbayrivercenter.org.

Judy distributed the new River Center brochures which have been printed by Allegra. 2500 were printed and are ready for distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes taken and submitted by
Judy Kalmanek, Secretary
Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary Board

P.S. The Thunder Bay Audubon at their meeting on Wednesday, September 20th agreed to revise and update the brochure on birding that is in the pamphlet rack at Duck Park. Plans call for the work to be done this winter.